1: Jenness--231 (1913-16) 1922 Copper Eskimo
116, 153

"Like all other Eskimos these people display a considerable skill in the treatment of skins, the whittling and carving of wood, and, since iron and brass were introduced, the working of metal. Their talent for imitation has stood them in good stead in these matters now that the whites have introduced new tools and new materials. Iron is beaten into shape just as their copper was, but they are learning also to temper it with fire. Many of them can take their rifles to pieces and put them together again. Ikpakhauk had a bullet stuck in the barrel of his .30-30 Winchester. He fixed it horizontally in the wall of his snow-hut, and lashed a friend's rifle to it, muzzle to muzzle. Then with the second rifle he fired a blank cartridge into his own, with the natural result that he burst the chamber. Nothing daunted, he tried to weld it together again by hammering on the crack with a stone, and was much chagrined when he found that a method he had employed so successfully with copper failed altogether with hard steel. The women and girls quickly pick up the principle of the sewing machine; after one or two lessons Kanneyuk could run up a snow-shirt or a pair of trousers in about an hour without the slightest assistance. The natives had no idea of twisting the strands of a rope together, or of splicing, up to the time we left their country, but probably before ten years are over there will hardly be a native who is not expert at both these accomplishments. Fox-trapping on an extensive scale is another new departure in their lives, yet they have already adopted all the tricks and devices known to the old trappers in

the west.

All these changes indicate the possession of great imitative powers, but little or no originality. The children seemed to be more keen intellectually than their elders, a feature that is common, I fancy, to most, if not all races, whether civilized or uncivilized. They would always grasp what I was trying to say more quickly than the older people, and generally picked up our ways more readily. It is interesting to notice that the inability of the whites to understand their language was frequently ascribed to defective hearing, and the remark or request would be repeated in a louder tone, the natives often forgetting or failing to realize apparently that their language was not intelligible to foreigners. There were great individual differences in intelligence, however, just as there were in manners. Some of the natives were very dull and stupid, and one or two seemed almost half-witted. The majority seemed fairly intelligent in all matters with which they were familiar, and soon adapted themselves to new conditions that did not differ radically from the old. A very few displayed marked intelligence and shrewdness. This was especially noticeable in the case of the two shamans, Ilatsiak and Uloksak, but whereas the former employed his superior intelligence in promoting the welfare of his fellow tribesmen, Uloksak used his for purely selfish ends; the one man therefore was honoured and esteemed for his wisdom and public spirit, the other disliked and feared because of his unscrupulousness and his cunning."